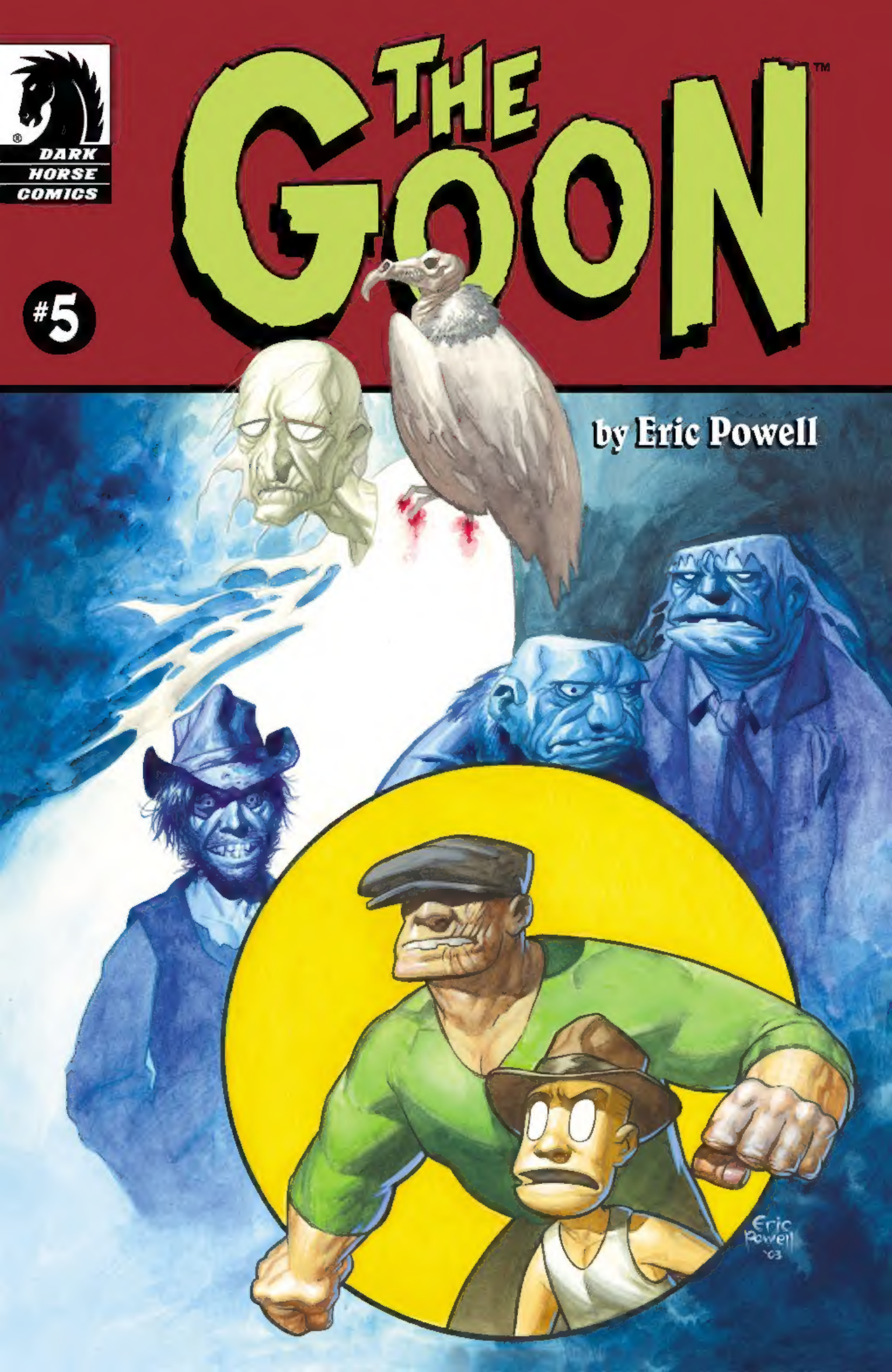
DARK HORSE COMICS

THE GOON™

#5

by Eric Powell



The nameless man, the zombie priest, had come to town to build a gang from the undead. But even the undead fear...

THE GOON™

by Eric Powell

color assists by Robin Powell, Shaynne Corbett, Barry Gregory, and Gage Powell

edited by Scott Allie and Matt Dryer designed by Amy Arendts
published by Mike Richardson

Zombies provided by Jethro and Earl Zombie Wranglerin' Inc., and The Adopt-A-Zombie Foundation

Nothing was harmed in the making of this thirty-two-page comic except for my holiday vacation, you ungrateful pukes! "I want my *Goon* comics! I want my *Goon* comics!" My children have forgotten my name! They call me the guy who draws and screams at the wall in the spare room! And it's all for you! You think about that, mister! You just think about that for a little while!

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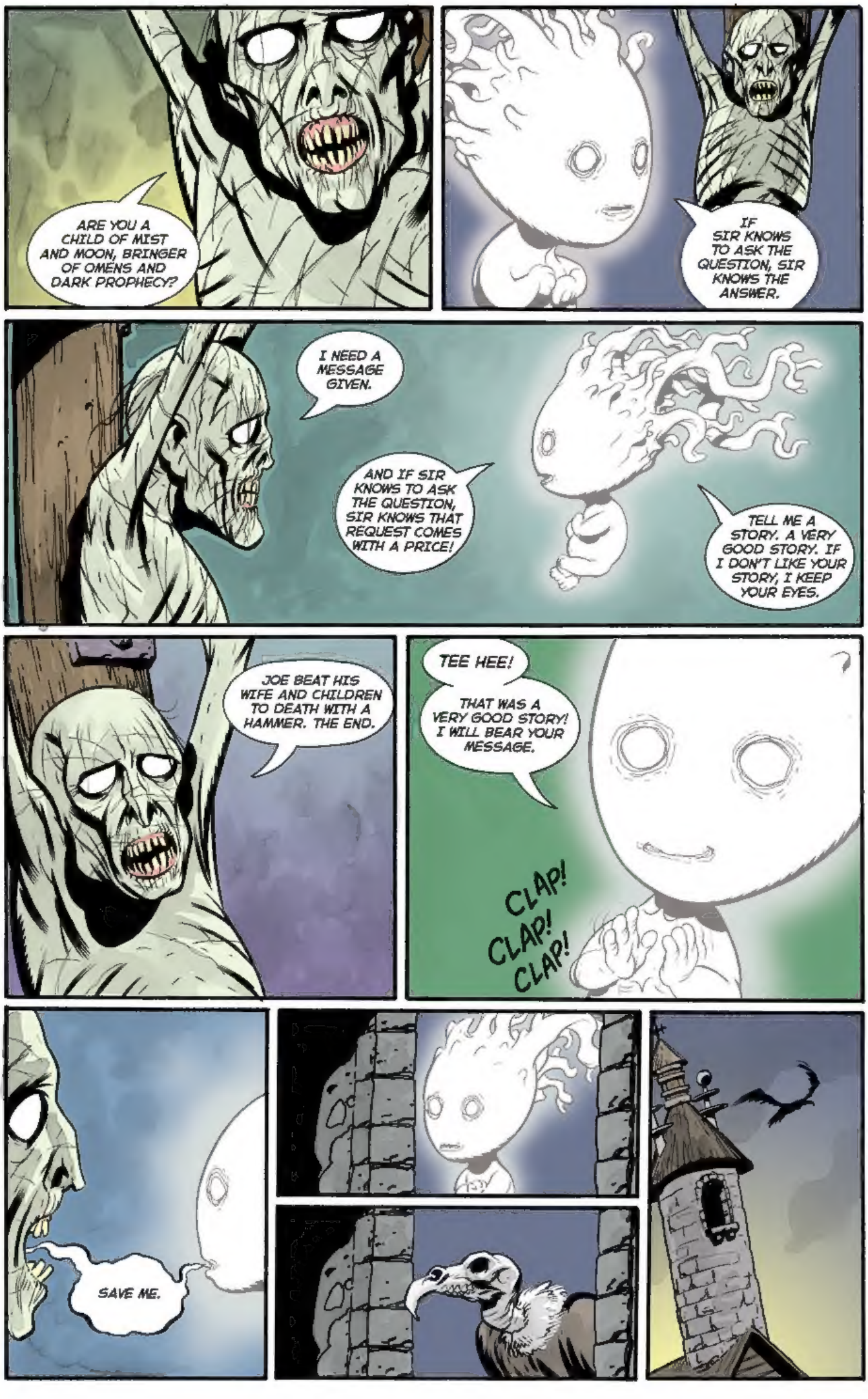
WHERE WERE YOU?
WHAP!
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN THE PREACHER BROUGHT THE PLAGUE?
WHAP!
WHERE WERE YOU WHEN MAMA CAME BACK AFTER DADDY LAID HER TO REST IN THE EARTH?
WHAP!
WE TRUSTED YOU!
YOU WERE OUR SHERIFF!
YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO PROTECT US!
WHAP!
HAD ENOUGH FOR TODAY, BUZZARD? OR SHOULD I GET THE CLUB WRAPPED IN BARBED WIRE?
I-IT...IT'LL... TAKE MORE...THAN THE LIKES OF YOU TA MAKE ME SQUIRM, YOU SORRY LITTLE ROACH!
WHAP!

SIR! GRAVE IS BACK! HE FOUND IT!
WHAT?!
HE DID IT! HE ACTUALLY FOUND IT!
SHOW ME!
FREE!
THIRTEEN YEARS OF PURGATORY WITHIN A GLASS JAR--OW!
MY BACK!


ARE YOU A CHILD OF MIST AND MOON, BRINGER OF OMENS AND DARK PROPHECY?
IF SIR KNOWS TO ASK THE QUESTION, SIR KNOWS THE ANSWER.
I NEED A MESSAGE GIVEN.
AND IF SIR KNOWS TO ASK THE QUESTION, SIR KNOWS THAT REQUEST COMES WITH A PRICE!
TELL ME A STORY. A VERY GOOD STORY. IF I DON'T LIKE YOUR STORY, I KEEP YOUR EYES.
JOE BEAT HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN TO DEATH WITH A HAMMER. THE END.
TEE HEE!
THAT WAS A VERY GOOD STORY! I WILL BEAR YOUR MESSAGE.
CLAP! CLAP! CLAP!
SAVE ME.

YEP, IT TOOK A LOT OF DOIN', BUT ME AND THE BOYS FINALLY DUG IT UP.
THE GOON REALLY MESSED HIM OVER. THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT.
HE IS NOT WHAT HE ONCE WAS, BUT HE CAN BE RESTORED.
HOW I'VE LONGED TO SEE YOU AGAIN, MY FINEST CREATION.
WELCOME HOME, MY LOVELY, LOVELY BEAST.
STELLA, ALL I SAID WAS I WOULDN'T MIND TAKIN' HER BACK TO MY PLACE TO SHOW HER THE MALAYSIAN UPSIDE-DOWN GIRAFFE MANEUVER!
IS THAT A CRIME?!
SWAP!

WELL YOU CAN JUST FIND SOMEONE ELSE TO PRACTICE YOUR MALAYSIAN MANEUVERS WITH FROM NOW ON, FRANCIS!!
YOU REALLY GOTTA LEARN TA KEEP YER MOUTH SHUT.
HEY, FELLAS!
SPIDER, I SWEAR TA GOD, YOU GOT FIVE SECONDS TA SCRAM BEFORE I BEAT YOU SENSELESS WITH A BAR STOOL!
WHAT DID I DO?!
WHY'D YOU HAVE TO GO TELL STELLA ABOUT ME MAKIN' FRESH WITH THAT CANDY STRIPER?!
HEY, I CAN'T HELP IT IF I'M AN HONEST MAN!
HA, HONEST MAN! AIN'T YOU THE GUY THAT SWINDLED OLD WIDOW SWEED OUT OF EVERYTHING SHE HAD IN THAT OPOSSUM FARMING SCAM?!
THAT'S DIFFERENT! THAT'S ENTERPRISING!
THAT BLIND, ONE-LEGGED, OLD LADY KNEW THE RISK BEFORE SHE INVESTED!
DO YOU WANT ME TA KILL HIM?
NA, I'D FEEL SORRY FOR HIS MAMA.

I'M GONNA GET SOME AIR.
EXIT ONLY
GOON.
GOON.
I LAY IN TORMENT IN THE TOWER OF THE NAMELESS MAN. SAVE ME.

WHAT THE--?
NORTON, I NEED TO TALK TO YOUR MOTHER!
O-OKAY, SHE'S IN THE BACK.
A BIRD THAT SAID, "I LAY IN TORMENT IN THE TOWER OF THE NAMELESS MAN, SAVE ME."
HMM. WHAT YOU GOT THERE, BOY, IS AN OMEN!
WHAT YOU NEED IS SOMEONE WITH THE SECOND SIGHT. I KNOW JUST THE FELLA.
ARK! ARK! ARK!
psychic
Seal
YOU SAY HE'S IN PAIN?!
ARK! ARK! ARK! ARK!
THE MAN WHO LIVES ON THE FLESH OF THE DEAD IS STILL ALIVE?!
BUZZARD!

ARK! ARK! ARK! ARK!
HE'S BEING TORTURED IN THE TOWER OF THE NAMELESS MAN, THE ZOMBIE PRIEST?!
ARK! ARK! ARK!
THAT OLD FREAK IS STILL ALIVE?! WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO?
WE GOTTA GET 'IM OUTTA THERE!
ARK! ARK! ARK! ARK!
YEAH, WELL WE DIDN'T ASK YOU!
ARK! ARK! ARK! ARK! ARK! ARK!
DON'T NOBODY TALK ABOUT MY MAMA!
GET 'IM!!

STUPID SEAL! LET'S SEE HIM RUN THAT SMART MOUTH WITH HIS JAW WIRED SHUT.
CALL ALL THE BOYS TOGETHER. WE'RE GONNA NEED THE EXTRA MUSCLE.
YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, ARE YOU?
WE'RE JUST GONNA STROLL DOWN LONELY STREET?
THROUGH THE ZOMBIES, HAGS, LURKS, AND EVERY OTHER FREAK-SHOW THE PRIEST HAS DRAWN TO HIM? I GUESS WE'LL JUST WALK UP AND KNOCK ON THE DOOR?
I SAID WE'RE GOIN' AFTER HIM!
SIGH. FINE.
WHAT YOU RECKON MR. GOON WANTED TA TALK ABOUT?
MAYBE 'E WANTS TA GIVE US A RAISE!
OOOH, THEN I COULD AFFORD TA EAT THEM CANNED BEANS EVERY NIGHT!
YES, CANNED BEANS IS A PRIVILEGE OF THE SOPHISTICATES.
HEY, MUDS! OVER HERE!
WHAT'S WITH THE TIES?
NOW THAT WE WORKS FOR MR. GOON, WE IS TRYIN' TA PROJECT A MORE BUSINESS-LIKE PERSONA.

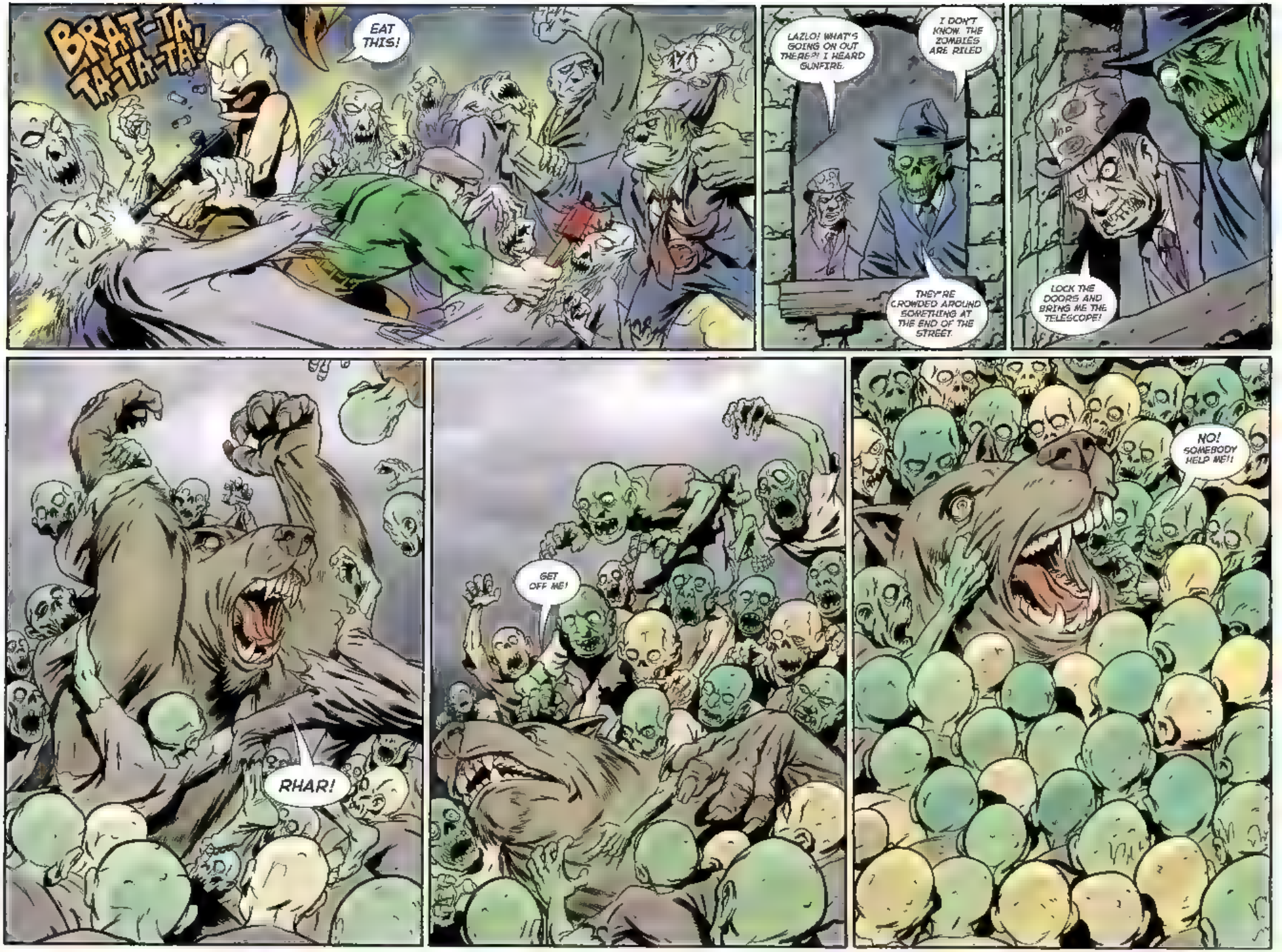
IT WOULD 'ELP IF 'E WOULD QUIT STUFFIN' DEAD CATS INTA 'IS POCKETS!
I CAIN'T 'ELP IT. IT'S A COMPULSION.
YEAH, IT'S GOON...DON'T WORRY ABOUT HOW I FOUND YA!
I GOT SOMETHIN' I NEED HELP WITH...HEY, YOU OWE ME! LISTEN UP, HERE'S WHAT YER GONNA DO...
THIS IS WHAT'S GOING DOWN. THE PRIEST HAS GOT A FRIEND OF MINE. WE'RE GOIN' IN TA GET HIM!
OKAY, WE'RE WITH YA!
RIGHT!
YOU GUYS AREN'T WORRIED ABOUT TRYIN' TA INVADE LONELY STREET?!
IGNORANCE IS BLISS!
AND WE IS MIGHTY BLISSFUL!
WELL YOU CAN COUNT ME OUT!
OH, YEAH, MERLE?
THEN MAYBE I SHOULD PAY MORE ATTENTION TA THESE STORIES I BEEN HEARIN' ABOUT YOU SKIMMING OFF THE TOP OF THE GUNS YOU BEEN RUNNIN' FOR ME.
GULP.

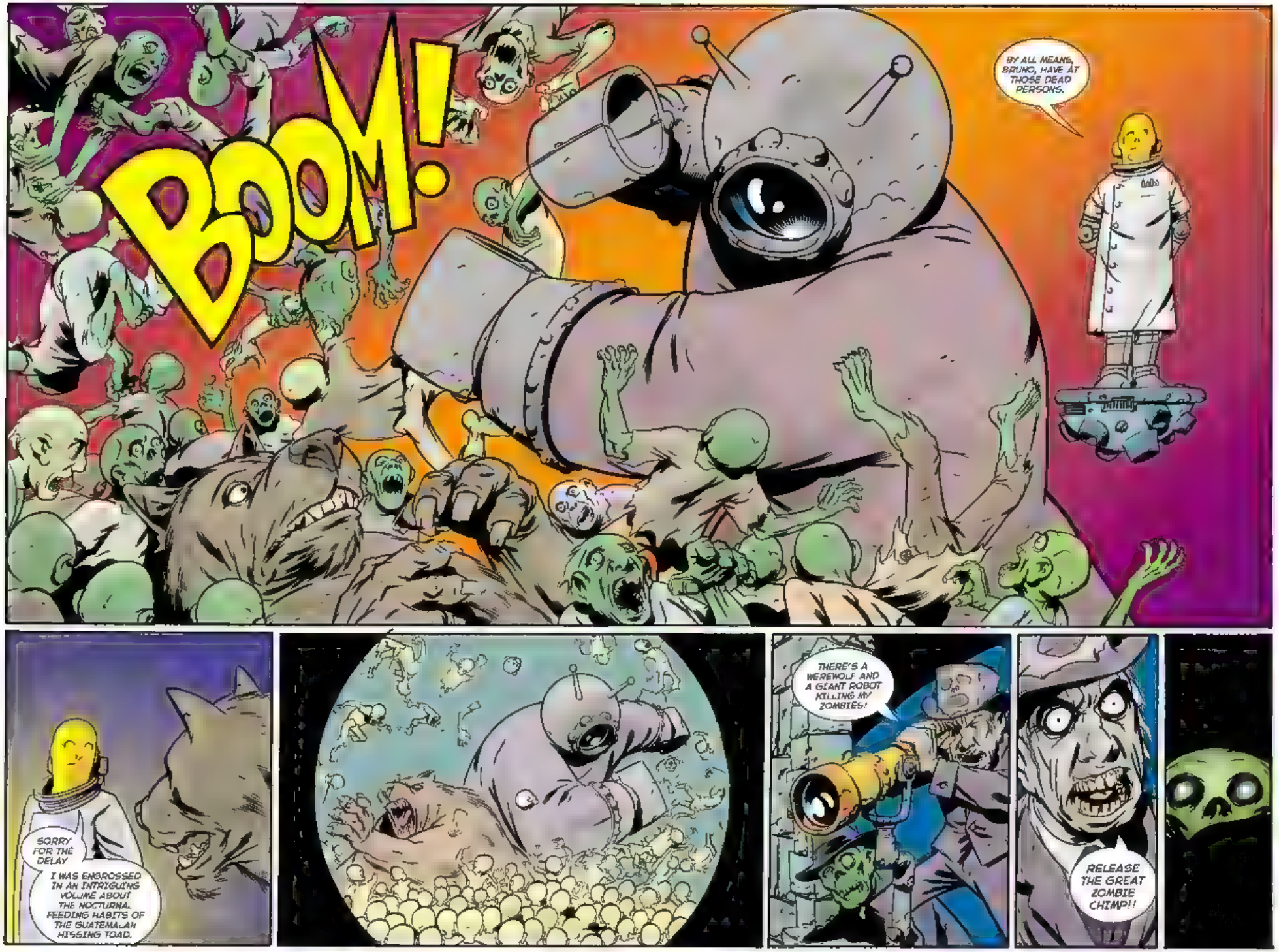
BESIDES, ALL I WANT YOU TO DO IS BE A DIVERSION.
I JUST WANT YOU TO DRAW THE ZOMBIES OFF WHILE THE MUDS, FRANKY, AND ME STORM THE TOWER.
YOU EXPECT ME TA HANDLE ALL THE ZOMBIES ON LONELY STREET?!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. YOU'LL HAVE HELP.
WHAT ABOUT SPIDER?
SPIDER'S USELESS.
HEY!!
EVERYBODY DO WHAT YOU GOTTA DO TO GET READY. WE'RE GOING TONIGHT!
I'M SORRY!
SHERIFF, WHY DIDN'T YOU COME HELP ME WHEN DADDY GOT THE FEVER AND DIED? I WAS ALL ALONE.
DADDY WAS DEAD, BUT HE GOT UP. HE GOT UP AND CAME AFTER ME, SHERIFF.
I WAS ALL ALONE.

NO!
HEH, HEH! BABY HAVE A BAD DREAM?
THE PREACHER TOLD ME ABOUT YOU. SAID YOU WAS A SHERIFF. SAID HE CAME TO YOUR TOWN AND TURNED 'EM ALL ZOMBIE. HEH!
THEN HE PUT A HEX ON YOU. MADE YOU HAVE TA EAT DEAD FOLK.
SPENT THE REST OF YER LIFE TRYIN' TA HUNT HIM DOWN, GET YER REVENGE, ONLY TO END UP HIS PERSONAL WHIPPIN' POST!
BOY, AIN'T YOU A SORRY SACK!!
I HEARD OF YOU, TOO. YER NAME'S GRAVE.
DEAD WIFE AND A COUPLE OF DEFORMED SONS. I MAY BE A SORRY SACK, BUT AT LEAST I DIDN'T SACRIFICE MY FAMILY TO SERVE THAT PREACHER!
SHUT YER MOUTH!
I WAS MAKING A FUTURE FOR MYSELF.
LOOKS LIKE YOU DID REAL WELL.
AT LEAST I AIN'T TIED TO A POST.

LONELY St.
AWAY FROM MISSISSIPPI'S VALE, WITH MY OL' HAT THERE FOR A SAIL, I CROSSED UPON A COTTON BALE TO THE ROSE OF ALABAMY.
OH, SWEET ROSIE, THE ROSE OF ALABAMY. A SWEET TOBACCO POSEY IS MY ROSE OF ALABAMY.
THAT GUY BETTER SHOW UP, GOON!
YOU BOYS WOULDN'T DARE DREAM OF CHEWIN' ON LITTLE OL' ME, WOULD YA?
WOULD YA?!!

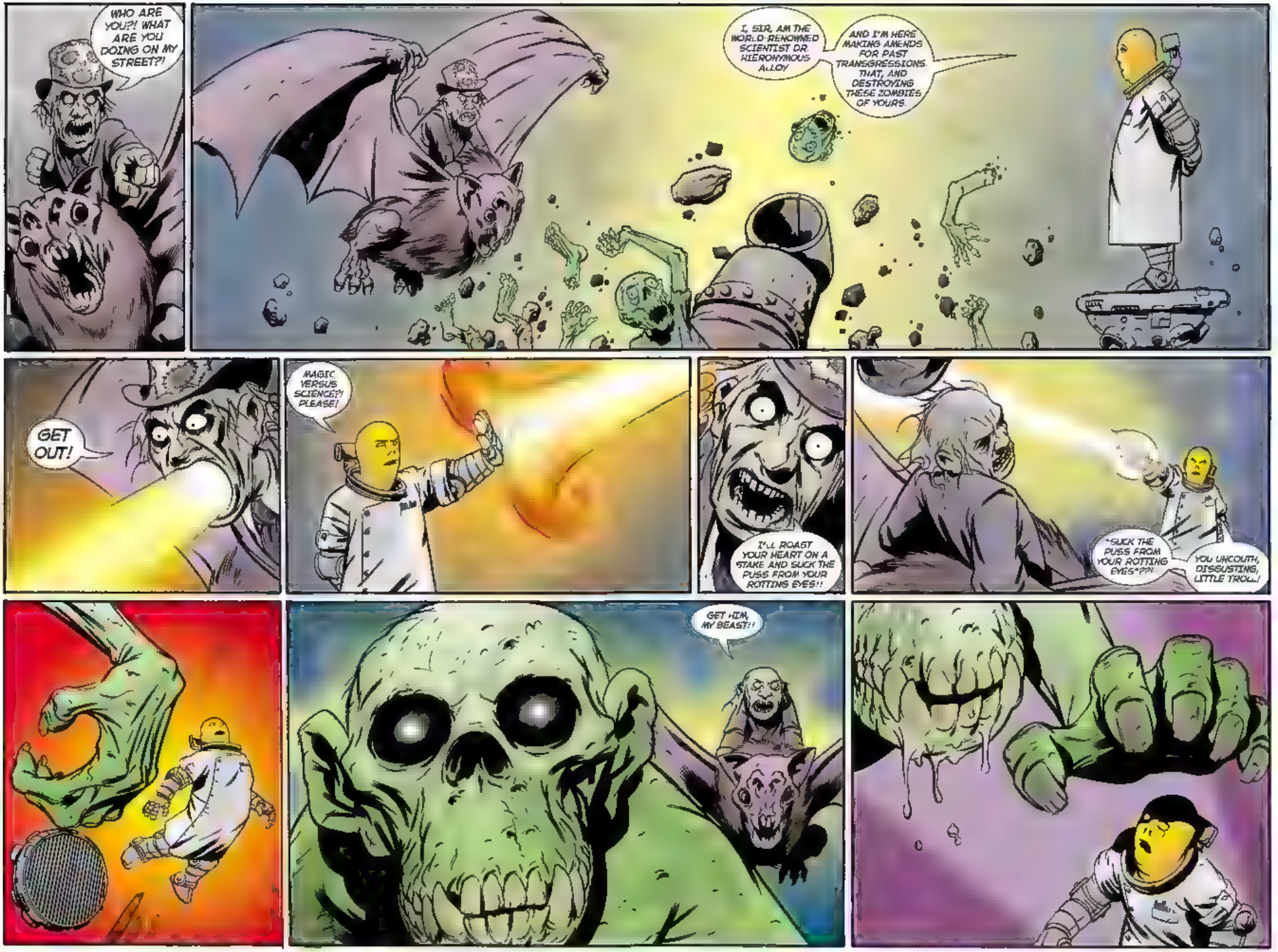
C MON, HE'S DRAWIN' 'EM OFF! WE'LL FOLLOW THIS TRENCH ALL THE WAY TO THE TOWER
YEAH, I AIN'T SO WORRIED ABOUT THIS TRENCH AS I AM THAT TOWER! NO TELLIN' WHAT KIND OF VOODOO THAT PRIEST HAS GOT IN HIS OWN HOUSE
AWW, DON'T WORRY, LITTLE FELLA.
YEAH, WE IS HERE TA PROTECT YA.
IF THOSE GUYS DON'T GET KILLED ON THIS TRIP, I'M SHOOTIN' 'EM BOTH IN THE FACE.
QUIET! THERE'S SOMETHING UP THERE
AH THEY IS GONNA EAT THE LITTLE FELLA!
HABS!


BRAT-TA-TA-TA!
EAT THIS!
LAZLO! WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?! I HEARD GUNFIRE.
I DON'T KNOW. THE ZOMBIES ARE RILED
THEY'RE CROWDED AROUND SOMETHING AT THE END OF THE STREET.
LOCK THE DOORS AND BRING ME THE TELESCOPE!
RHAR!
GET OFF ME!
NO! SOMEBODY HELP ME!!


BOOM!
BY ALL MEANS, BRUNO, HAVE AT THOSE DEAD PERSONS.
SORRY FOR THE DELAY
I WAS ENGROSSED IN AN INTRIGUING VOLUME ABOUT THE NOCTURNAL FEEDING HABITS OF THE GUATEMALAN HISSING TOAD.
THERE'S A WEREWOLF AND A GIANT ROBOT KILLING MY ZOMBIES!
RELEASE THE GREAT ZOMBIE CHIMP!!

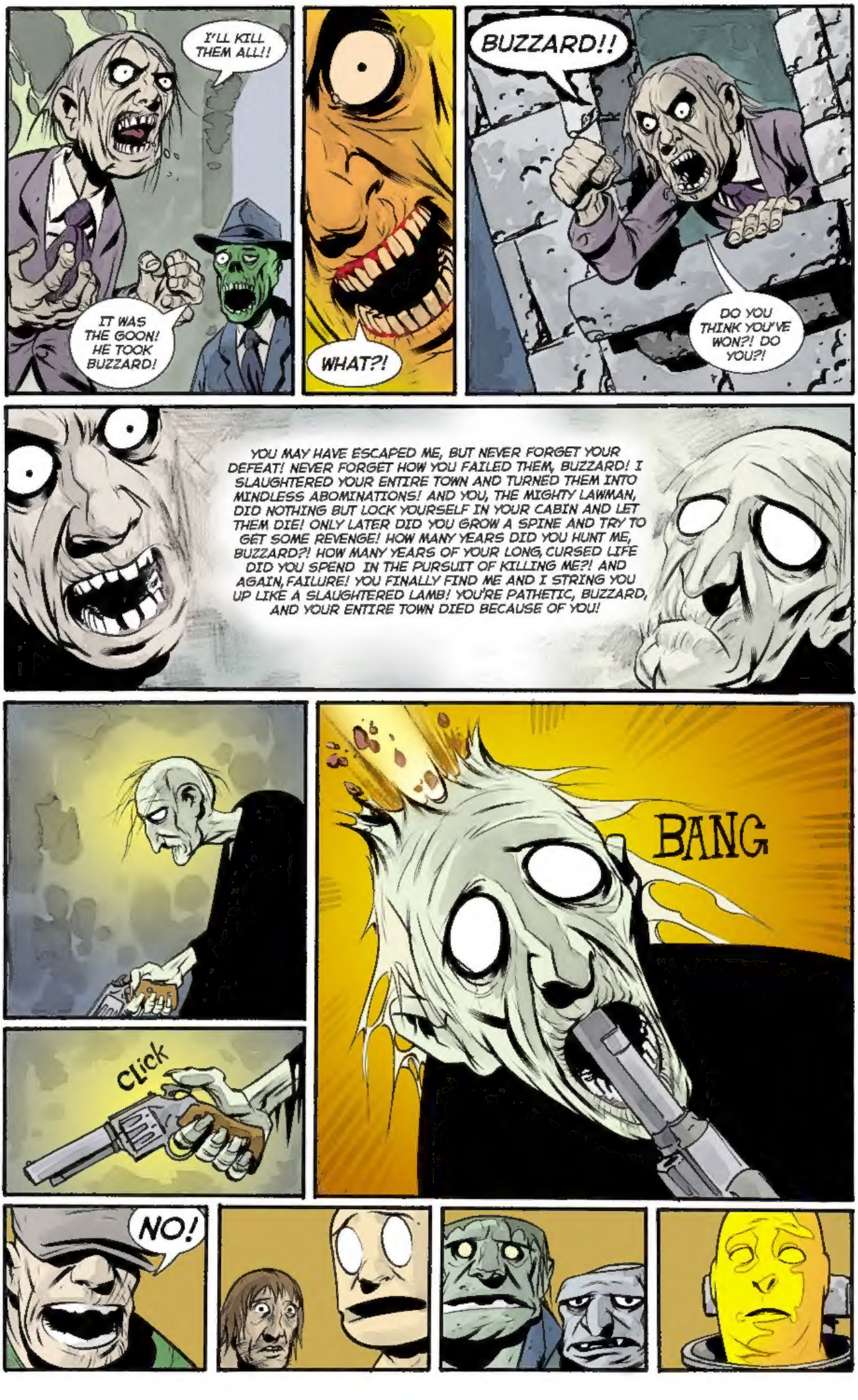
SHWAK!
C'MON! THEY GOTTA BE ON TO US BY NOW! LET'S MOVE!
OPEN UP!!
WHAM!
GO TO HELL!!
AS IF I'M GONNA TAKE THAT KIND OF LIP FROM A DOOR!
SMASH!
IT'S THE GOON! GET THEM, GRAVE!
C'MON, BOYS!
WE GOT IT HANDLED DOWN HERE! GO FIND HIM, GOON!

BUZZARD?!
I - I DON'T RECKON I REMEMBER MY RIGHT NAME. BUT SOME FOLKS CALL ME BUZZARD.
SNAP!
N'GAH!
S-SO, HUNGRY.
MAKE YERSELF USEFUL, SLACK JAW! AS A SNACK!
CRUNCH!
I ALMOST FEEL LIKE ME AGAIN.
THUD!
BUST THAT BOX OPEN FOR ME, GOON.
SMASH!
YEAH, NOW I FEEL LIKE ME!
LET'S GET OUTTA HERE!

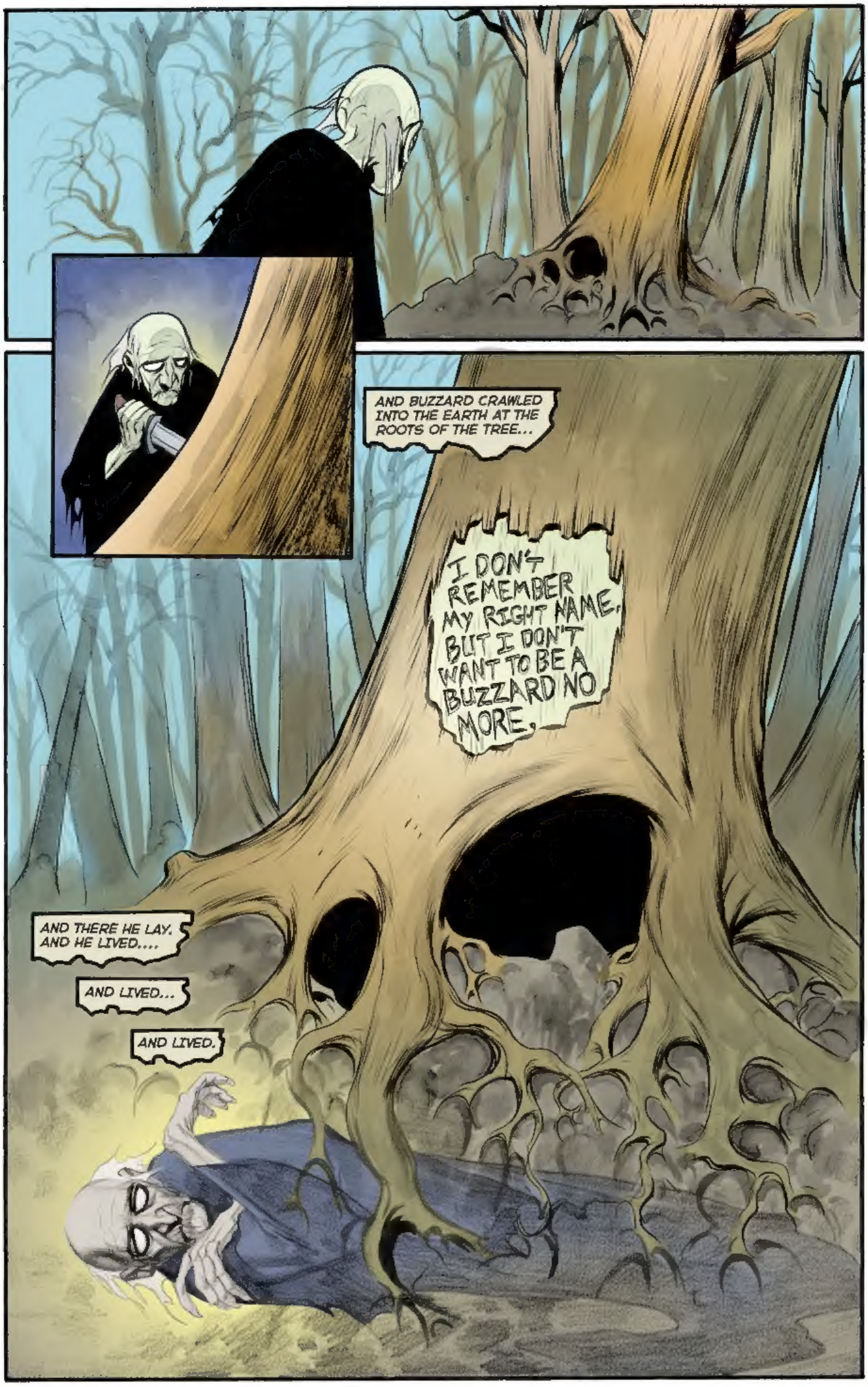

WHO ARE YOU?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON MY STREET?!
I, SIR, AM THE WORLD-RENOWNED SCIENTIST DR. HIERONYMOUS ALLOY
AND I'M HERE MAKING AMENDS FOR PAST TRANSGRESSIONS. THAT, AND DESTROYING THESE ZOMBIES OF YOURS.
GET OUT!
MAGIC VERSUS SCIENCE?! PLEASE!
I'LL ROAST YOUR HEART ON A STAKE AND SUCK THE PUSS FROM YOUR ROTTING EYES!!
"SUCK THE PUSS FROM YOUR ROTTING EYES"?!?!
YOU UNCOUTH, DISGUSTING, LITTLE TROLL!
GET HIM, MY BEAST!!

GRR!
CLAMP
SMACK!
ZZZZZZ
WELL DONE, BRUNO! AND AS FOR YOU!
ZZZAPOW!
AHH!!
I WON'T FORGET THIS! I WILL HAVE MY REVENGE!
QUICKLY, EVERYONE, GRAB HOLD OF MY PLATFORM! BRUNO SHALL HOLD OFF THE GHOULS!
AHOY! WE GOT HIM! EVERYBODY GET OUTTA HERE!
CAN'T FIGHT NO MORE.
I GOTS YA, MERLE.

FAREWELL, BRUNO. IT IS FOR THE GREATER GOOD WE ALL MUST SERVE.
click
BOOM!
SET DOWN HERE, ALLOY!
THANK YOU, GOON.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
YOU ARE A GOOD MAN. DON'T FORGET THAT
DON'T GO THINKIN' TOO MUCH OF ME. I JUST DID IT TO PISS THE PRIEST OFF
I KNOW DIFFERENT BOY


I'LL KILL THEM ALL!!
IT WAS THE GOON! HE TOOK BUZZARD!
WHAT?!
BUZZARD!!
DO YOU THINK YOU'VE WON?! DO YOU?!
YOU MAY HAVE ESCAPED ME, BUT NEVER FORGET YOUR DEFEAT! NEVER FORGET HOW YOU FAILED THEM, BUZZARD! I SLAUGHTERED YOUR ENTIRE TOWN AND TURNED THEM INTO MINDLESS ABOMINATIONS! AND YOU, THE MIGHTY LAWMAN, DID NOTHING BUT LOCK YOURSELF IN YOUR CABIN AND LET THEM DIE! ONLY LATER DID YOU GROW A SPINE AND TRY TO GET SOME REVENGE! HOW MANY YEARS DID YOU HUNT ME, BUZZARD?! HOW MANY YEARS OF YOUR LONG, CURSED LIFE DID YOU SPEND IN THE PURSUIT OF KILLING ME?! AND AGAIN, FAILURE! YOU FINALLY FIND ME AND I STRING YOU UP LIKE A SLAUGHTERED LAMB! YOU'RE PATHETIC, BUZZARD, AND YOUR ENTIRE TOWN DIED BECAUSE OF YOU!
Click
BANG
NO!

PLEASE!! JUST LET ME DIE!!
JUST LET ME DIE!!
HOW'S HE DOING?
HE HASN'T SAID NOTHIN' SINCE WE BROUGHT HIM BACK.
GOON, JUST WHAT IS HE?
I DON'T KNOW. I NEVER SEEN NOTHIN' LIKE THAT.
WHAT DO WE DO WITH HIM?
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING.
GOON.
YEAH?
HE'S GONE!


AND BUZZARD CRAWLED INTO THE EARTH AT THE ROOTS OF THE TREE...
I DON'T REMEMBER MY RIGHT NAME. BUT I DON'T WANT TO BE A BUZZARD NO MORE.
AND THERE HE LAY. AND HE LIVED....
AND LIVED...
AND LIVED.

EMPIRE